China weekly Review

密勒氏評論報

Problems and Progress in Chengtu . . . EARL WILLMOTT

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EDITORIALS:

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

JUNE 3, 1950 JMP 4,000

上海香港路一一七號美靈登有限公司承印
上海中正東路一六〇號密勒氏評論報發行

LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of the China Weekly Review.

WORKERS' NEW LIFE

To the Editor:

You will remember my earlier letter telling of the liberation of Peking's transport workers from the "Lu Pao" gang leader, Li Ming, which was printed in the May 13 issue of the Review. I should like to tell you in this letter about the "new life" of these transport workers in the Kuang An Men Railway Station area.

The workers, under the guidance of the Workers' Union, are now leading a very pleasant life. Every worker can get an equivalent of from 10 to 11 lbs. of flour as their daily wage. They have set up their own cooperative and restaurant and great improvement has been made in their living conditions. Almost all attend night schools where they receive an elementary education—something which they formerly regarded as having nothing to do with men like themselves.

One worker, Tseng Kuang-teh, in telling about his new life said with elation: "We are now oppressed by nobody, nor does anyone exploit us. We ourselves get all of our earnings. We are indeed leading a much better life at present. We put on new uniforms today. Those of us who live far away can afford to ride bicycles to work."

Looking back to the past, another worker, Chen Pi-yuan, compared the present with his former condition, saying: "Before, when I worked under Li Ming, I found it difficult to get enough coarse food to eat each day. My children were trouserless and shoeless and my wife could never afford a suit of clothes without patches. My landlord pressed me for rent daily. Now we don't have to worry about our daily bread and my wife and children have new clothes to wear. I call this 'fan shen' (meaning that he is now standing on his own feet). The goodness of the Communists can never be forgotten."

The following report on working conditions of the workers after liberation is given in the words of Mr. Shu Ching-sheng, a responsible member of the Porters' Union: "Formerly, under Li Ming, the workers simply could not get enough to eat. All they learned was how to steal. Usually a great deal of grain was spilled on the ground and no one bothered about it; it was no one's concern if it rotted. But, now, everything is in sharp contrast. It has become clear to the workers that the grain comes from the labor of their painstaking brothers—the farmers—and that it is by no means easy for the farmers to carry it to the storehouse. So they have begun to protect it from spoiling, quite of their own accord, and their carrying capacity has increased 100 percent. Small 'Lu Pao' leaders are working honestly together with the other workers."

P. Y. WANG

Peking
May 24, 1950

MORAL COMPULSION

To the Editor:

I refer to a report quoting Dr. Wilhelm Haas, Chief of the Organization Bureau of the West German embryo Foreign Service as having said something about former Nazis not being objectionable today.

Dr. W. Haas, a former member of the Diplomatic Corps of the Third Reich lost his job after a terrific struggle on account of his wife's racial composition in 1939 or so.

The man took then one of the highest paid jobs in the German Dye Trust's organization in China and lived happily in Peking.

The man managed to be repatriated as a "Displaced Person" by UNRRA in spite of the fact that he had been displaced in the service of the Third Reich to the Nazi Embassy in Tokyo, and published upon his return to Germany a statement of his "sufferings" in China as a victim of Nazi persecution.

The man now talks about people having joined the Nazis "out of practical or moral compulsion."

While practical compulsion might mean anything from fear of losing a fine job to the point of a gun, MORAL COMPULSION is certainly something to think about, as in the writer's opinion one can only be compelled by one's own morals to do things or not to do them. If one's own morals compelled one to become a Nazi at one time there is little doubt that those very same morals would produce the very same results at another. Dr. Haas has been and probably is still of the opinion, that of course the Nazis were a bit hefty with their anti-semitism, but fundamentally Nazism was a good idea badly carried out.

Thus let it be resolved to make a better job of it under the watchful eyes of the occupation authorities. Heil!

D. D. T.

Tientsin,
May 12, 1950

NEW VIRTUE

To the Editor:

If we want to be good citizens we must make up our minds to rid ourselves of our bad habits and become creators of the new society. Our students' association has posted an important notice which calls upon all schoolmates to cultivate new virtues. And because we want to correct ourselves in different ways, the movement in our school has become an important topic for discussion.

Recently every day after supper, a lot of small groups have come together to discuss new virtue. In these discussions many schoolmates acknowledge their faults, one of which is their irresponsibility to the people. Simultaneously, we study our faults in the light of our political training through criticism and self-criticism. We have censured our attitude to public property such as taking books out of the Library without permission. We now have established a new attitude through this movement and we have also decided upon a form of competition for mutual supervision.

In fact, Tsinghua has stepped into a new stage, which leaves no room for bad habits. Our own experiences have proved what a world of difference lies between the old situation in Tsinghua and the new!

CHIN PEN-CHEN

Tsinghua University
Peking
May 16, 1950

STUDENT LABOR

To the Editor:

I am very busy these days. Recently our school answered the railway's need for digging and carrying earth through the fields. This work is important for building and widening the railway. As we all know, the whole of China will soon be liberated and communications need to be improved. But during this period of early summer everybody is busy in the fields. So how and where can the railway find the men to do this work?

Therefore our students and teachers have set to work with a will and are as busy as bees. We have been working unceasingly in the fields, under the hot sun. Our classes have been shortened. Each night we lie down utterly exhausted.

This work is also solving many of the poor students' economic difficulties, for we are paid for our labor. We have fully developed the spirit of mutual help and cooperaion and have found our task a living education. This is the

(Continued on Page 18)

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Subscription

Shanghai and China Outports
3 months
JMP52,000 including postage
6 months
JMP100,000 including postage
Price per copy: JMP 4,000
STUDENT RATE
Shanghai and China Outports
3 months
JMP40,000 including postage

Overseas Rates

	6 months	*1 year*
U.S.A. & Canada	US$4.50	US$8.00
British Commonwealth	£ 1–16–3	£ 3– 4–6
Hongkong	HK$28	HK$50
India	Rupee 23	Rupee 42
Malaya	Straits $15	Straits $27

Telephone: 14772
Cable Address: "Reviewing" Shanghai

Published at 160 Yenah Road (Eastern), Shanghai (0), China, by Millard Publishing Company, Incorporated under the Laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A. Printed by Millington Limited, 117 Hongkong Road, Shanghai, China

China weekly Review

密勒氏評論報

A Weekly Newspaper Established in 1917

The editorial pages present each week the opinions of the editor. The other pages of the *China Weekly Review* are written by the other members of the staff and the contributing editors who report and interpret the news irrespective of the views expressed in the editorials.

Vol. 118 Shanghai, Saturday, June 3, 1950 No. 1

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

THE United States, Britain and France, judging by their present policies toward Malaya and Indo-China, seem to belie the correctness of the old proverb that people learn from experience. At least their actions would indicate that the men making up the governments of these countries are determined to learn the hard way.

The Western powers, led by the United States, did their best to prop up Chiang Kai-shek's KMT despite the fact that for a number of years the Chinese people demonstrated most clearly that they were determined to rid themselves of this carpet-bagging clique. Money, supplies and advice were supplied to the KMT in a virtually never-ending stream, but even then Chiang and his henchmen were unable to keep control.

Demonstrating that they have failed to learn from the China experience, these powers are now pursuing roughly similar policies in Indo-China and Malaya.

• • •

PRIOR to the Pacific War, the French colonial regime in Indo-China was one of the worst administrations in the world. Ever since the Japanese surrender, the French have been unsuccessfully attempting to re-impose this old colonial administration upon the people of Indo-China. Combining double-dealing diplomatic trickery with brute force the French have repeatedly tried to subdue the country. However, with each passing month they have lost ground and now face a military and political debacle.

The United States, having just burned its fingers in China, is nevertheless hurrying to intervene on behalf of the French. However, the situation already bears such striking resemblance to the China scene of a couple of years ago that there is little doubt but what the game will shortly be up for the French and their American supporters.

In Malaya the British are engaged in an "anti-insurgent" campaign which they show little signs of completing despite the expenditure of huge sums and the commitment of thousands of troops. Just recently it has been suggested that the other members of the British Commonwealth strengthen the British position by contributing money and troops.

In principle the French and the British are on the wrong side of the fence. There is no possible way of denying the rights of the Indo-Chinese and the Malays to set up such governments as they themselves wish. Both the French and the British acquired control of their colonial areas in Asia by force and thus have no right—aside from the dubious one of conquest—to govern and exploit these countries.

All talk about law and order, the blessings of Western civilization, independence by evolution, and so on are just so much hogwash designed to cover up the fact that the French and British governments are trying to re-establish an administration imposed from abroad without the consent of the native peoples and kept in power by foreign bayonets.

Obviously there must be some compelling reason which causes these "civilized" governments to violate the rights of native peoples, to condone the killing of Indo-Chinese and Malays as well as French and British troops. The answer is simple and can be summed up in one word—"profit."

The question then arises as to who gets this "profit" and how. In the old days when the anti-colonialism movement was weak and the foreign powers governed with a minimum of troops, it was easier to see how and where the dividends flowed. The ruling power exported manufactured goods to the colony in exchange for raw materials or other commodities and took care to see that the colony ended each year with an unfavorable trade balance. In addition, the colonial administration service and the colonial army provided a large number of well paying jobs for citizens of the home country. In this fashion the colony was, year after year, milked in the interests of the home country's economy.

From time to time the native people in most of the colonial countries have risen in revolt, attempting to throw off this foreign overlordship. Upon such occasions the colonies ceased to be a source of profits in the old sense. Disruption and destruction caused by the hostilities upset the old balance of payments, while the home government found it necessary to sink money into the colony in the form of additional military expenditures.

However, even such a situation as this was not entirely devoid of profits. Since the necessary expenses were born by the government, they were in turn passed on to the general public of the home country in the form of bond issues and higher taxes. That particular section of the home country's business community which normally profited from the exploitation of the colonies thus managed to shift the burden of recapturing its profits onto the backs of the people. In addition a colonial war always provided an opportunity for additional profits by the munitions makers, the uniform suppliers and the host of other industrialists and traders engaged in supplying the army.

Thus we have a clue as to why today there is so much pressure on the French and British governments for continuing the campaigns in Indo-China and Malaya despite the fact that most qualified observers are of the opinion that the native peoples in Asia will eventually win.

Evidence that these facts have not escaped a number of people in both France and Britain can be seen from the periodic protests made at home over these two governments' colonial policies. In France there have recently been a number of demonstrations against the Indo-China campaign which has been attacked on both moral and economic grounds. Demonstrators have carried signs calling for an end to the "dirty war," while many independent observers have expressed fear that France's economy cannot long stand the huge drain.

The attempt to recapture the markets and investments in Indo-China is enriching only a small vested interest, it has been pointed out. Meanwhile, according to an American ECA official, the expenses of last year's campaign—which were borne by the French taxpayers—almost equaled the total US dollar value of Marshall Plan aid to France.

In Britain the criticism of the war in Malaya has not been so outspoken, although recently a British MP stated in Parliament that the war was being fought for the dividends of a small group of men who never even visited Malaya.

Even if one leaves aside the moral issues involved and looks at the matter from a "dollars and cents" point of view, it is readily apparent that neither the French nor British government is looking after its own best interests. History has shown that while a profit may indeed be extracted from a conquered nation, the level of profit tends to diminish with the passage of time. The constant, yearly, removal of profit leaves little capital for expansion of the colonial market.

War profits and war engendered prosperity are an illusion since labor and material is squandered in production of goods which have no constructive use. In the end, a few munitions makers may pocket a bit of profit, but the general public is measurably poorer, while the labor of future generations has been mortgaged to pay off the national debts. Further, the country's ability to handle such debts is diminished in direct proportion to the amount of irreplaceable natural resources—iron, coal, chemicals, etc.—which have been shot off in an unproductive war. To this must be added two more main considerations: The direct loss of life and property occasioned by the war and the loss of labor—an irretrievable loss—which must be diverted from production of useful articles to the making of war materials.

On the other hand, what would be the end result if the French and British governments were to reverse their present colonial policies and bow to the inevitable course of events? Independent countries which are free to industrialize and raise the standard of living of their people become better and better customers. A glance at world trade statistics is sufficient to show which countries make the best customers. The United States, for instance, never found semi-feudal China a particularly good customer. Year after year America's best customers were the other more highly industrialized nations of the world such as Canada, England, Germany, Japan, and so on.

A colony by its very nature cannot be a good customer in this day and age. A free and independent Indo-China and Malaya would provide markets never before dreamed of for French, British and other foreign businessmen.

No matter how you look at it, the French and British policies—as well as the American policy of aiding and abetting—represent colossal stupidity. With each passing day crimes against humanity are being created for which the French, British and American governments may well have to answer in the future. Additionally, by toadying to a relatively small vested interest group, these governments are seriously injuring their own broad business communities and are rapidly impoverishing their own taxpayers.

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

ONE of the more significant changes which has taken place in China during the past year or more has been the position of the numerous minority races scattered throughout the country. The granting of full equality to members of minority races is not only in line with the highest principles of morality and justice, but is an effective answer to those who still entertain super or master race theories. This development is particularly noteworthy since it is a complete break with the past policy of "solving" minority problems in China by suppression and forced assimilation.

Although the new authorities have long been on record as opposing "pan-Hanism," many members of minority races in various areas of China viewed their approaching liberation last year and the year before with mixed feelings. While virtually all were relieved at the prospect of getting rid of the KMT, many were doubtful as to whether the new regime would bring any real betterment of their condition. Years of oppression, dating back to the days of the Manchus, made them skeptical of all "Chinese."

Now, with only the Kaoshans on Taiwan and the Tibetans yet to be liberated, it is possible to review actual conditions in most of the areas containing substantial minority races.

The Northwest, where there are 13 principal racial groups, is one of the main minority areas of China. Actually in many parts of the Northwest the Han race is a minority. In Sinkiang province, where there has been a long record of bad inter-racial relationships, every effort has been made to wipe out the old discriminations and oppressive practices. The minorities are represented in the government, while the right to bear arms is guaranteed all races.

This last point alone, we believe, is indicative of the new situation. Under the KMT every effort was made to restrict possession of firearms to the Han people and then only to the KMT troops. So far as the Chiang government was concerned, the minority peoples could not be trusted with weapons.

Just as the new government sees no danger in—and actually encourages—the arming of workers and peasants, it also feels that it has nothing to fear from armed tribal or other racial minority groups. This is indeed a far cry from the old days and, we believe, effectively gives

the lie to current reports abroad of internal despotism and "red tyranny."

In Mongolia, where some liberated areas are now about two years old, more than 200,000 copies of books and magazines have been printed in Mongolian, while there are now almost 2,000 primary schools. According to a recent issue of *People's China*, there are a total of 106,900 students in primary and secondary schools, about twice the number during the Japanese occupation.

The extent to which the policy of providing equal opportunity for educational and cultural advancement has been carried can be seen from the fact that extensive efforts are being made to satisfy the needs of the Korean immigrant population in Manchuria. In one section of Kirin province where some 70 percent of the population is made up of Korean settlers more than 1,000,000 textbooks and reference works of various kinds have been printed in the Korean language. Since the liberation of this area there has been a 90 percent increase in the number of primary and middle pupils, while the number of schools has been upped by 63 percent.

* * *

THE reasoning behind this major effort to insure equal opportunity for all, regardless of racial or other differences, is just from a humanitarian point of view and sound from a practical standpoint. The new authorities recognize that there is no scientific basis to the theories of racial supremacy and also realize that equal opportunity and justice must be available for all if the people are to cooperate in the great effort of building a new country.

As long ago as 1938 Chairman Mao Tze-tung, addressing the Sixth Congress of the CCP, pointed out the need for uniting all natural minorities in the fight against Japan. In order to accomplish this, he said, it must be understood that all the races of China are entitled to equal rights. He also stressed that the minority races must be represented in the various organs of government and that their culture, religion and customs must be respected.

Just last year the rights of minorities were made part of the law of the land. Chapter VI, articles 50-53 of the Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consulative Conference deal with this matter.

All nationalities within the country are stated to be equal. Greater nationalism and chauvinism are to be outlawed. Regional autonomy shall be exercised in areas where national minorities are concentrated. In places where different nationalities live together and in the autonomous areas the different nationalities shall each have an appropriate number of representatives in local government organs.

All members of minority races have the right to join the PLA and to organize local public security forces. All national minorities shall have freedom to develop their dialects and languages, to preserve or reform their traditions, customs and religious beliefs. The government shall assist national minorities to develop their political, economic, cultural and educational construction work.

While there are only a relatively few places in the world, such as South Africa, where equality of opportunity for national minorities is not recognized in principle, we doubt if there are very many places where real equality is being promoted as it is today in China.

It is highly significant that these provisions have already left the "paper" stage and are actually being implemented throughout the country at this moment. This, it seems to us, is particularly impressive in a country where the policy toward minorities for the past several centuries has been so repressive that it virtually amounted to one of extermination.

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Spreading Industrial Unrest

May 30, 1925

The industrial unrest in China, which during the past month or so has made itself articulate in connection with various Japanese cotton mills in Shanghai, has in the meantime, spread in several directions. . . . Evidences of industrial unrest are not entirely confined to Japanese establishments, however, for in addition . . . the British-American Tobacco Co. at Hankow has been having trouble.

American Gains in Asian Markets

In other words, so far as the leading South American markets were concerned, the United States has nearly doubled her relative strength.

In the three leading Far Eastern markets a similar transformation had taken place. In Japan our share of the imports rose from 16 percent in 1913 to 26 percent in 1924; whereas those from Great Britain fell from 16 percent to 12 percent; and Germany's declined from 9 percent to 6 percent. In China the American gain was even more impressive during the same period, rising from 6 percent to 16 percent, whereas Britain's share fell from 16 percent to 13 percent, and Germany's from 5 percent to 3 percent.

From "Placing American Trade on an Equal Footing"

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Intervention in Behalf of Aggressors

June 1, 1940

We purport to be an idealistic and philanthropic people. We haven't yet ceased boasting of what we did for Cuba and Puerto Rico in 1898. But now there is butchery a thousand times greater at the back door of our Islands in the Pacific, and instead of trying to stop it, we are actually providing the instruments with which the Japanese are slaughtering the Chinese.

. . . So now, when we see, as we do see almost every day in the newspapers, pictures of Chinese dwelling houses, huts, hospitals, schools bombed and blazing, it is a ghastly thing to realize that those bombs, the planes that dropped them, the bullets, the shrapnel, the tanks, were made of American material, perhaps even in American factories.

From "The Catholic World," by Rev James M. Gillis

Japanese Labor Unions

Labor unions in Japan are to be disbanded, Welfare Minister Shigeru Yoshida stated in an interview with the Tokyo press last week, according to Havas. No special legislation will be passed for this purpose, he said, and the project will be executed administratively. Existing labor regulations had to be revised, he added, because they were originally drafted on the basis of recognition of the right to strike and on the admissibility of strife between capital and labor.

Problems and Progress in Chengtu

This west China city has had to tackle bandits and inflation; now other problems are being met by the joint action of the government and people.

MOST people, at the time of liberation, did not expect the deterioration and opposition which developed. Neither did they, at the time of greatest trouble, expect that recovery could be brought about so soon.

For about four months after liberation things went along apparently quite normally. Then trouble began. Early in February groups of "bandits" began to appear in different country districts throughout Szechuen. The government ordered silver, gold and foreign currency off the market, and the people resisted. Prices rose higher and higher.

Reports of bandit activity within a few miles of the city disturbed the peace of mind of the people. The rumor was whispered around that there was a big possibility that the new government was going to collapse and the KMT return. Naturally, it was the moneyed and landed class which grasped this hope and began to act accordingly. Communication with the countryside was cut by the bandit activity, so food prices went soaring. Coal could not be brought in, so the electric light company gave light only intermittently.

But the people in the Military Control Commission did not seem overly worried. I believe they expected it. They knew that Szechuen communities and local governments were dominated by the Elder Brother secret society, and that its members would be on the side of the landlords and would scheme with them against the new government. They knew that when the KMT government moved further and further west and then finally flew its top men off to Taiwan it left behind in the Chengtu area large numbers of officials and secret agents. They knew that these antagonistic elements would make use of every possible excuse to arouse the people against the government.

Bandit Suppression

I asked a government official why they did not use the army to quickly and vigorously suppress these armed bandits and confiscate all arms. He explained that the difficulties were great: They did not want to alienate the people, and if a strong force went out against such a band it would disperse and all arms would be hidden away. The only effective way was to educate the people, and that could not be done quickly.

He said they had made a mistake in being too generous at first with the bandits who were caught. They were just disarmed and allowed to return home. Later, however, as banditry continued, they were held. During the last few weeks, more than 10,000 have been taken prisoner. So far as I know, only a very few of the top ringleaders have been executed. They hope that the others can be re-educated.

At the height of the inflation, just at Chinese New Year's time (February 17), when rice was selling on the open market for a million and a half JMP for a *tan*, the government sold rice to the people, in small quantities per person, at JMP400,000. They also sold cotton thread and cloth at prices much below market price. At the same time they took vigorous steps to stop the use of silver. Offenders—those who were trading in silver—were more or less severely punished, those dealing in small amounts less, those dealing in large amounts more. The Chu brothers, for instance (the Chu family is one of the rich old families of Chengtu, well known by most of the foreigners for their wonderful displays of chrysanthemums and their hospitable tea parties at that season), were caught speculating in silver dollars to an extent that disturbed market prices and therefore brought added suffering to the people. They were tried and given 10 years in prison.

Prices Drop

It was only a very short time before silver just disappeared entirely from the city's commerce. In the country it was slower to go, but it has now disappeared in all but the most remote districts. And at the same time prices have been dropping. I did not expect rice to come down to the government selling price, but down and down it came: below that price—below the pre-inflation price! Now it is only JMP200,000 a *tan* (about one and one-half US cents a pound). Prices of other commodities have gradually declined proportionately.

Not long ago a merchant said to me: "What a fool I was! I believed the rumor that the KMT was going to return! I had JMP30,000,000 in cash and I bought medicines with it—when prices were at their highest. If I had kept that money, I could now buy five times as much. Now my medicines are worth only JMP6,000,000. What a fool I was!"

Another factor which has lowered prices here, as well as all over the country, has been the Victory Bond campaign. As far as I know, every district has gone over its quota. The campaign was well organized and publicized. The papers carried full and clear explanations—not only as to the benefit to the buyer, but to the country. The unit of the bond was something quite unknown in the West, I think—the so-called "parity unit." This unit is the price of a certain amount of rice, of cloth, of salt, of oil, and of coal. So the price of the bonds in currency has been going down these last several weeks. (So has the US exchange rate, so the price in US equivalent has been fairly constant.) The bonds pay five percent a year. Interest and capital is paid back at the current price of a parity unit at the time of payment. In this way the buying power of the investment is held constant. One unit just now is worth 70 cents US.

Government Bonds

Considerable pressure to buy large amounts of bonds has been used on anyone thought to have money. Each district is given a quota by the district committee, and each district tries to go over its quota more than other districts. So they naturally look around to find who has the money, and then they put on the pressure.

The representatives of the district committee came to one university official. "Have you bought any bonds yet?" "Yes, yes." "How many?" "Well, I have bought one, and my daughter has bought one." "One! You have had an important university position for many years, you were the provincial head of the social democratic party [this party cooperated fully with the KMT], you have been a member of the provincial assembly—and you buy one bond!" "Well, that was all the money I had." "Well, we expect you to buy 3,000." I haven't heard whether they have accepted his final effort or not—he has bought 13.

I can understand all this pressure, though officially the buying of bonds is supposed to be quite voluntary. A large number of the people who have had money have bought US currency or opened bank accounts in the USA. The government is anxious to get US credit, and it doesn't believe in people living on money gained during the KMT regime, for in the last analysis it must have come from the workers and peasants. People who made money got it mostly from high rents or from speculation.

Landlords and Taxes

The new democracy differs from the dictatorship of the proletariat in that society, and therefore the government, is made up of four classes; workers, peasants, petit bourgeoisie, and national bourgeoisie ("national" in the sense that their enterprise is not connected with foreign imperialistic economic aggression and that it fits the needs of the nation.) Eventually, for this is just a temporary stage, the last two of these classes will disappear. In the meantime, landlords are to be left with their land, though rents are limited. But they are already on the way out. Taxes and levies for these classes are terrifically high. On land, for instance, whereas a poor farmer who works his own land pays only a small tax, the absentee landlord is asked for more than his total annual income from rent. Many of them would like to give their land to the government in lieu of taxes, but they may not, for just now the government wants money, not land.

The redistribution of land will occur in 1951 here. By that time, I think, most landlords will be glad to get rid of their land!

One thing that is generally acknowledged about the new government is that the awful official corruption in the KMT government does not

exist. It was with considerable surprise and not a little disappointment, then, that we heard of an official of the new government playing the old game. Immediately after the arrival of the PLA in Chengtu, a number of officers came to our dental hospital for treatment. When completed, an official came to pay the account. It was 400 silver dollars (silver was not yet outlawed at that time). He paid the $400 and asked that the receipt be written for $450. This kind of thing had been common practice previously. Perhaps for that reason, and because it came from a headquarters man, the accountant there wrote the receipt as requested.

When this matter was reported soon after to a government official, he said, "Oh, this kind of thing absolutely *must not be*. And if it ever happens we depend on the people to report." The next day an investigator came to examine the dental hospital books. The accountant and the superintendent were interviewed several times. A few weeks later a notice appeared on the front page of the daily paper giving the facts of the case briefly and announcing that the official had received a sentence of six months in jail.

* * *

IN late March for nine days there was held a municipal People's Representatives Consultative Council. There were eight Christians that I know of among the delegates, including Chiang Dz-ang, head of the department of sociology and just now acting president of our university, and Pearl Chiang, head of the child study center of our church.

Dr. Chiang explained its organization: the delegates were not, strictly speaking, democratically elected. In the present state of social organization here and under a Military Control Commission government that would not be possible. That will come later. The delegates were all invited. But they were chosen on the basis of really representing the different classes and organizations of the people of Chengtu.

Early in March word went out to all organizations to send in names as nominees for delegates to the conference. For instance, word came to the Szechuen Christian Council to make nominations for a delegate to represent the Christian Church. There were to be six delegates to represent the universities. Representatives from each of the seven universities in Chengtu met to nominate their delegates. Szechuen University, being by far the largest, wanted to have three of the six and let the other six universities have three among them. None of the six agreed to this. Finally they agreed to send in 10 names from which six would be chosen. The conference Preparatory Committee's choice included Dr. Chiang from West China Union University, one delegate from Oberlin-in-China, two from Szechuen University, and two from the remaining four institutions.

Our university had altogether five people among the delegates: Dr. Chiang, Dr. Li An-che, chosen at the last minute because of his knowledge of Tibetan people and affairs, a technician, chosen to represent some technical group, and two students, one representing our student body and another for some other group.

Altogether there were 301 delegates to represent the 700,000 people of the greater Chengtu municipality. These were divided among different groups as follows: local army—10; government—30; political parties—19 (Communist Party—4, Democratic League—4, etc.); workers—45; farmers—7 (not a very large number of farmers within the municipality); youth—25 (chiefly students); women—15 (representing women's groups; there were 35 women altogether); industrial and commercial management—41; cultural and educational—34; scientific and technical—15; journalists—4; professional—4; religious—3 (one Christian, two Buddhist); minority races—4; regional representatives—14; special—26 (KMT turn-over officers and officials, etc.).

Reports to the Public

The first two days was taken up with reports from different government heads. Pearl Chiang said she was amazed that in two and a half months they had learned so many details about Chengtu. Every phase of social life and governmental organization was covered in these reports. One report dealt with the taking over of equipment and supplies belonging to the old KMT government immediately after liberation. Every detail is open to public knowledge. "We would be happy to have anyone come and check on all these statistics and inventories." Facts about the currency situation and about banditry in this district were given frankly. These reports were very necessary, Miss Chiang said, because almost all of the delegates were terribly ignorant of these things.

This first meeting elected a presidium of 19. These were nominated by the Preparatory Committee and presented as a whole slate to the Conference and were passed without change. At every point in the meeting, the Presidium or some committee had a definite suggestion to present. This was put to the whole meeting for discussion. Sometimes changes were made, sometimes not.

Proposals Studied

The Presidium suggested that six commissions be formed to deal with proposals, and suggested 50 names of delegates present to constitute these commissions. The meeting passed these 50 and added 16 more. These 66 were experts in different fields. Each of these commissions discussed and brought in recommendations in regard to the proposals that were allocated to it. The other members of the conference were divided into discussion groups to discuss general questions.

In all these commissions and groups and in the general meeting there was complete freedom of discussion. Not a few complaints and criticisms of the government were brought out. In each case the government head related to the issue explained the situation. And always the government leaders gave special attention to these criticisms. As Dr. Chiang said, "This meeting was largely educational in nature: The government people wanted to learn from the representatives of the people of Chengtu; and the representatives had much to learn, not only about the new government, but about their own situation."

Each invited delegate was asked to bring proposals from his own organization. For each proposal, the delegate had to get the signatures of four other delegates in order to get it on the agenda. There were altogether about 400 proposals. These were divided into categories and printed in a fat book. Different groups here at the university sent their proposals to Dr. Chiang—24 in all. He got them all on the agenda, and finally 15 of them were passed. (There were many more than 24 to begin with, but only 24 were considered realistic and financially possible.)

Market — *by Feng Jen*

Several days were spent in meetings of commissions where the proposals allotted to them were thoroughly discussed and a recommendation to the conference formulated. Then in the large meeting these recommendations were dealt with—either to throw them out, or suggest that they be studied, or passed for action by the government.

Government Attitude

The government representatives argued vigorously against any proposal which they did not agree with, carefully giving the reasons against it. For they did not want any recommendation to pass the meeting which could not actually be carried out or which was not in keeping with the policy of the central government. How different from the procedures of the old government, which seemed to take special pride in formulating high-sounding recommendations which it had no intention of carrying out.

For instance, many proposals involved the expenditure of money which the government just did not have.

One recommendation asked that some of the 38 private middle schools in Chengtu be combined to make fewer and stronger schools. This was discussed at some length, the government opposing it. The government said that this was against their policy of freedom for private schools. Finally it was decided to hold it over for further study.

The question of public toilets came in another proposal. They are extremely unsanitary. The proposal was that the government take them over. But it was brought out by the government (they knew about every toilet and its condition and ownership!) that they were all owned privately and a source of income for many people—who sold night soil to the farmers. This proposal was also held over for future consideration, though it was suggested that some of the toilets should be made over for women, and that owners should be encouraged to keep them clean!

The 15 proposals coming from our university which were passed dealt with various things: The protection of trees along the river, the sale of narcotic drugs only on the order of a western-trained doctor, the use of our museum to collect data about the revolution, the organization of corps to prevent epidemics. The nine which were not passed all came from the Medical College and had to do with the certifying of every death by a western-trained doctor, assistance to the hospital, promotion of oral health, state medicine, and so forth. The general feeling was that these were not possible at this stage.

The Buddhist delegates asked that their temples be not occupied by troops. This brought about a sharp discussion. The principle of religious freedom was definitely upheld, but the question of the use of temples was held over for study.

Any proposal which did not apply to the immediate situation of the next three months was laid on the table to be considered at the next PCC in June.

— *EARL WILLMOTT*

Art Education in New China

Seeking "creative realism," China's art students substitute the working man for Greek statues and find their classrooms in the farms and factories.

MAO Tse-tung has said that "Life is the fountain of creation." The National College of Fine Arts in Hangchow now follows this theory in its teaching methods.

On a typical morning, April 16, the students were awakened at four o'clock by the ringing of bells.

They arose, tied their quilts and clothing into bundles and, after eating their bowls of rice, went to the playground to wait for the trucks that were to take them to the farms and factories.

While they waited, a group of students began to dance the *yang ko* to the accompaniment of some Chinese instruments:

Chang, chang, chi, chi, chang.
Chang, chang, chi, chi, chang.

Others sang a song as follows:

Why should we go to the farms?
Why should we go to the factories?
We educated people want to reform ourselves,
We must live and work with the working class.
Hey!
We must live and work with the working class.

The students were accompanied by their professors who included such men as Lin Feng Mien (林風眠) and Kwan Liang (關良), some of China's most famous painters. Professor Lin won fame in Paris years ago. His paintings are still highly valued by the French connoisseurs. But now, he no longer paints for the rich. He wants to reform himself with the other artists in China. He sat this morning on his baggage, talking with his friend Professor Kwan.

The trucks arrived, baggage was loaded aboard, and the students and professors set out for their destinations.

To understand why they were going to the farms and factories it is necessary to look back at the past history of art education in the old liberated areas.

* * *

Lu Hsün School

THE first revolutionary art school in China was the Lu Hsün Art Academy at Yenan. Most of the famous artists in north China, such as Ku Yuan (古元), Hwa Chun-Wu (華君武), and Miko (米谷), came from that school. But, as Comrade Kiang Fung explained to me, the Lu Hsün Art Academy also made mistakes.

When we asked Hsia Li for this article describing some of the new developments in Chinese art education, he replied: "I immediately thought of Comrade Kiang Fung (江豐). In 1939, he was head of the Art Department in the Lu Hsün Academy, the first revolutionary Chinese art school in Yenan. Later, he worked in the Art Department of Hwa Pei University. Now, he is in charge of the National College of Fine Arts in Hangchow. It is on him that I have drawn heavily for information."

The National College of Fine Arts is one of China's two national art schools. The other is the Central College of Fine Arts in Peking. Hsia Li is connected with the research department of the former institution which, he tells us, plans to move to Shanghai in the fall in order to bring its art education into closer contact with industrial life.—Editor.

"The teachers and students in that school were enthusiastic about revolution," he said. "But their association with the working class was not strong enough. Like the students in any other art school, the Lu Hsün students studied art in classrooms and studios. They did not really understand the people. The characters whom they created in their pictures were fictitious. Later, at Yenan's Cultural Meeting, Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out these mistakes and asked them to change.

"From that time on, the Lu Hsün Art Academy began to undergo a great transformation. All the teachers and students went to the farms, living and working with the peasants. They described the lives of the peasants. They came to understand the true feelings of the peasants. This is the reason why the art in north China has been so vivid and 'true-to-life.' "

* * *

Wide Influence

THE success of the Lu Hsün Art Academy influenced all the art schools in China. This is the reason why the professors and students of the National College of Fine Arts go to the farms and factories.

In the past, art education in the Kuomintang areas was deeply influenced by the Paris school. The students did not like to draw pictures of what they actually saw. They liked to distort the figures in their

paintings. "Exactitude is not truth," said Henri Matisse.

The students blindly followed the doctrines of these French artists. They knew nothing except how to paint willow trees, peach blossoms, and female nudes. They were unable to master a large composition.

In order to cultivate the students' ability in "creative painting," the professors in the National College of Fine Arts use a new method of teaching.

The first year and second year students have to draw the portraits of "living men" besides studies of Greek sculptures. Likewise, the third year and fourth year students have to draw "models in clothes" in addition to studies of nudes.

In the past, the first year and second year students studied only Greek sculptures. They were so familiar with these things that they could draw the figure of Venus or the torso of Laocoon from memory. But if they were asked to paint a portrait, they could only draw a Chinese with a Greek nose. The same was the case with the more advanced students. Most of them were unable to draw the drapery of a man in clothes because they had studied only nudes in their classrooms.

In the past, the poses of "models" were adopted from Greek sculptures. These were usually reclining figures. They expressed the Greek idea of beauty of a "sleeping Venus." Now, the "models" have to stand up, with tools in their hands. They express the beauty of the working class.

Every afternoon the students have to sketch what they see within or without the campus. The realization of movement, of human bodies in action is the logical beginning of "drawing from life."

* * *

Reform Difficult

IT was a hard task at first to reform some of the students who were worshippers of Matisse and other modern French artists. They refused to go to the farms and factories. They wanted to study art in classrooms. They imitated the lines of Matisse in their drawings and paintings.

But other forces were at work. At meetings of small discussion groups and in the classrooms the paintings of Matisse and other famous artists of the Paris school were critically analyzed. The Dramatic Club presented a four-act play called "Direction," which was written by the students themselves. In that play, they told the audience how meaningless the paintings of the capitalistic world were! Gradually, these "Matisse worshippers" changed. Now, they are as happy as the other students, because they no longer hesitate. They understand that realism is the only truth in art.

Under the new system the students have improved both in political understanding and technique. Last term, they held an exhibition after returning from the factories and farms. The spectators—most of them workers and farmers—looked at their paintings and exclaimed. "They are too good! The persons in these pictures really look like us."

All of these pictures are realistic. But this does not mean that they are "photo-like." Everyone shows his own character in his creative painting. Within the realm of realism, the development of personality will not be limited.

No professor is able to teach if he does not go to the farms and factories with his students. The students like to ask questions such as these:

"Sir, how does a rope go through the nose of an ox?"

"Sir, what does a windmill in west Chekiang look like?"

Well, the professor has to blush if he does not know how to answer. So all of the professors go to the farms and factories.

New Grading Method

AT the end of the term, the students put their drawings and paintings on the walls of the Art Gallery. Then, the professors and students hold a meeting and discuss the pictures. They grade them according to the opinion of the majority.

In the past, some of the professors in the KMT area were not interested in teaching. They came to school once or twice a month, letting the students themselves grope for methods of drawing and painting. Some of them were so lazy that they refused to paint pictures without "inspiration." Some did not paint a single picture for 10 years, because "inspiration" did not come.

Since the liberation of the mainland of China, this has changed. Unlike the world of capitalism, the new society lets no one be lazy. The artists, too, study the works of such great thinkers as Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung. They hold meetings from time to time. They attend the public lectures of famous men. This is the only way for an artist in a society of New Democracy to understand his time and surroundings thoroughly.

* * *

Professors Paint, Too

THE professors at the National College of Fine Arts have a "special studio" in which they can work. So they also have a chance to improve their technique. In addition to this, the college provides a "special schedule" for its professors. Every artist is expected to finish one or two paintings each term.

The exhibition of the professors in April was most successful. Most of the pictures were oil paintings describing what the professors saw and found in the factories and farms.

Some of the best pictures will be sent to Moscow this fall for inclusion in the Chinese Art Exhibition.

— *HSIA LI*

Left; Waiting for the trucks. Among the group are some of China's most famous painters and art workers. From left to right: Peng Shin-chin (彭堪琴), Kiang Fung (江豐), Lin Kwan-ju (林環如), Lin Feng-mien (林風眠), Kwan Liang (關良), and Su Tien-shi (蘇天賜). Center; Learning to spin by hand. At a farm house, the country women are the teachers of the art students. Right; Three peasants watch Professor Chang Yang-I (張漾兮), a well-known wood engraving artist, as he works.

The story of a wedding

New Things, New Ways

by Ku Yü

translated by Max Bickerton

TWO days before Wang Kuei-te was to be transferred to a new position in the district town, his parents and the parents of his sweetheart, guessing their intention, began to make preparations for the wedding.

Wang Kuei-te was a very strong and active young man. And the girl? Her name was Feng-lan, and, as anyone could tell you, she had been awarded the title of "Model Worker" and was a girl who was not afraid of hardship or responsibility. Everyone in the village approved of the marriage, and often spoke of them in the course of conversation. Kuei-te's village was just separated from Feng-lan's by a ditch, so that when the ditch dried up they became almost like one village. Wang Kuei-te often had to come and see Feng-lan on farming problems, and then the old women would gossip behind their backs and say, "It's certainly a new thing to see a young couple who are not yet married, working together."

Feng-lan's father was anxiously figuring out how much corn he ought to sell to buy his daughter some wedding presents. This morning, he got up very early, and tied some sacks of corn on to his little cart, thinking that after breakfast he would go straight to the market in the town and buy her some things.

Just when he was ready to set out, his daughter stopped him, saying, "Father, what are you doing? This year we've barely managed to save up this little bit of corn. Didn't they say at the meeting that they wanted everyone to have a surplus of from three to five pecks to tide them over till the wheat was harvested?"

Her father let down the shafts of the cart, and, filling his pipe, replied, "Feng-lan, ever since you have been able to work, these many years, you've never spared yourself for us, and now I cannot do badly by you..." He paused ruefully, put his pipe in his mouth and then went on, "I reckon on giving you four sets of clothes, two of cotton worsted, and two of figured cotton...and a few sticks of furniture, and a few dishes and plates, a mirror, a little dressing-table, a soap-box and so on... What do you thing of that? Do you think that will be nice?"

Before he was half-way through this little speech, Feng-lan got up and smilingly began to take the sacks off the cart. Seeing her father's puzzled look, she said, "Father, Kuei-te's already been and explained all that to you, hasn't he? That he doesn't want us to spend a penny. This year we've all had a share of the landlord's goods, and Kuei-te's sure to have some chests and things I can use. What's the use of buying a whole lot of extra things? You can't dig with them, you can't plough with them. And when would I have a chance to wear flowered gowns? Now it's not like olden times, when a bride didn't go out into the fields for three years after her marriage. As soon as I go to his home, I'll have to start right away on production in the fields. Who's got any time to make themselves up with paint and powder? And Kuei-te's a district cadre, so he's more than ever against that sort of thing. Really father, there's no need to do any of that arithmetic."

Feng-lan went to put the cart away, but her father still sat on the courtyard step, with his head down and his brows knitted, still busy with his calculations. When she came out of the barn he said, "All right, I won't sell the corn, I'll sell the calf instead; we can't afford to feed two animals."

"That's worse than ever," replied Feng-lan in horror. "I've looked after him ever since he was born—more than a year—and now just when he's beginning to be useful, you talk of selling him. Kuei-te has got no animal. When I'm married it's going to be hard work in the fields unless there is someone I can borrow one from."

"But daughter," said her father, "Although in our hearts perhaps we may feel it's all right to give nothing, at the same time I'm afraid of being the laughing-stock of all those people who still stick to the old customs. And there seems to be no other way out of it."

* * *

THE ninth of December was fixed for the wedding day. At the crowing of the first cock, Kuei-te's mother crawled out of bed. Angrily buttoning her gown, she groped her way into the bridal chamber, and started to berate her son, "Get up! I don't know what pleasure you can find sleeping on in a room like this—it's as bare as if a corpse had just been taken out of it." Kuei-te, still dazed with sleep, at first did not realize what was the matter. His mother plonked her buttocks down on the edge of the k'ang and puffed with anger. Kuei-te sat up and rubbed his eyes.

"Mother, it's not yet light. What's the good of getting up so early?" he said.

"Getting up so early!" she replied. "Do you think I could sleep last night? Look at the house. Is there anything about it to show that we're going to have a wedding?"

"Are you sorry because there's to be no bridal chair?" asked Kuei-te. "Goodness, this year who rides in a bridal chair? Let me explain to you. All the farmers are so busy in the fields and doing other work at home that no one would have time to come and help us with a big wedding. When the *lao-pai-hsing* have given up bridal chairs how could I, who am a cadre, go in for such old feudal trappings?" His mother banged the matting of the k'ang with her fist and sent up a cloud of dust.

"Listen to you talking! Your old mother isn't such a blockhead as you think. This year at weddings no one is using a bridal chair, and I agree with that. What I'm objecting to is that when her family is so comfortably off, they're too mean to give her even a few presents. When I was married to your father, your grandmother managed to give me one long chest, even though she just about had to smash up her iron pot and sell the iron to do it..." She was so angry that she could hardly breathe.

Seeing her in this state her son did not know how to handle her but very gently tried to reason with her. "Mother, this year when so many places have been stricken with famine, even though we haven't had one here, still we've got to economize. If they were to sell their grain to buy her presents, how would they get through the spring?"

Brushing all he said aside, his mother went on with her tirade, shooting a stream of spit into his face as she talked. "I know all that, but what makes me so mad is that they can't bear to part with a single thing, not even a little gift as big as your fingertip. Yesterday afternoon when all the girls and the women came to see this new room, your mother's face went as red as a beetroot with shame. Though I was brought up in a poor home, I'm not used to this sort of thing."

Her son, still remaining calm, continued to reason with her. "You can't do new things just according to the old customs. Take our family for instance. We don't even own the hind leg of an ox. If we made a display of a big dowry, all in red lacquer boxes, would that help us to plough the fields and plant the corn?"

His mother was still unconvinced and went on shouting at him in a terrific voice. "All you people ever talk about is 'production.' Do you think I've lived all these years and don't know what 'production' is? Of course we need 'production' but that doesn't mean you don't have to bother a little bit about face. This

is something big that only happens once in a person's lifetime."

By the time Kuei-te had put on his clothes and washed his face, it was quite light. "Mother," he said, "This year production has brought brightness to the people's faces—it's not like the old times. In the future when we poor people have become prosperous it won't be too late to buy some furniture and things like that."

This remark only made her more angry. "You dolt, do you think that once they've got her married they'll ever buy anything for us?"

Hearing her still shouting at him in such a voice, Kuei-te at last began to lose his temper and shouted back at her, "I want their daughter—I don't want their presents."

This touched her on a sore spot and she replied, "You two can have the house to yourselves. I won't have anything to do with the wedding. I'm going off to your grandmother's to have a rest for a day or two."

With that, she marched out of the room, and bumped right into the mayor just as he was coming in. The mayor, carrying two red scrolls, had been on his way to get the meeting-place ready for the wedding ceremony, when he had heard them quarrelling, and thought that he had better come in and see what it was all about. Seeing the old woman's stormy face, he asked her what was the matter, and finally, with explanations and persuasion, managed to calm things down.

"Really, Mrs. Wang," he said good-humoredly, "Your ideas are wrong. Take an example. Supposing there were two girls; one girl's family could send you a huge dowry, four cupboards and eight chests, three blankets and six eiderdowns, but the girl herself was useless in the fields. The other girl has nothing, and only brings with her a good strong pair of hands that can work. Which girl would you choose?"

Seeing that her anger had died down somewhat, Kuei-te also ventured to put in a word. "Say which one you would choose for a daughter-in-law?"

She smiled and answered, "Of course the one who can work is better than the one with the dowry. That goes without saying."

* * *

AFTER breakfast, the meeting-place was all decorated for the ceremony, and looked very beautiful. Around the sides were lots of red scrolls, with newly written black characters on them, congratulating the bride and bridegroom, and in the center hung a picture of Chairman Mao. The presents sent by the district were also on view. The villagers, fighting to get a look at this and a look at that, pressed around so closely that there was not even room for a drop of water to get between them. You needed more than two eyes to see all the things. All kinds of exclamations came from everyone, big and small alike.

One old woman, pushing here and shoving there, exclaimed, "Everyone says they've seen this girl Feng-lan lots of times; how does it come that I've never seen her? But I must admit that this is all very nice. I remember that when I got up in the bridal chair, as soon as they lifted it up, I began to feel giddy. It was just spending money to be uncomfortable. But this way is very nice. It saves money and still keeps up appearances."

But then some old busybody, I don't know who she was, had to turn to Kuei-te's mother and say, "How is it that you haven't got the presents sent by the bride's family on view?"

Mrs. Wang's face reddened. She opened her mouth, but her tongue would not form any words in answer. Pretending not to have heard, she went off to hide herself in shame in the room at the back.

The village musical society arrived and added to the clamor when they started to play the various instruments they had brought with them. Then the ceremony began. When the mayor started to make his opening address, the people clustered round thicker than ever, just like bees around a hive, so that the head of the Women's Association had a hard time bringing Feng-lan through the crowd up to the platform. Feng-lan wore a blue serge gown and green cotton trousers, with a patterned towel wound round her head, and her eyes sparkled with happiness, as she took her seat beside Kuei-te. All the tough young men stretched out their necks, and shoved desperately to get nearer the front, while the small children whined in the rear.

"Hsiang-c'hin-men," began the mayor in a loud voice, "Silence please. The meeting has begun. I would first like to say a few words. Kuei-te and Feng-lan have come together of their own free will. They first worked together, and got to know each other's abilities, and then they became engaged. As for Feng-lan, we are always hearing people talk about her. You all know her production record. In order to set an example of economy, and in order to help production, she has persuaded her family not to waste money on a dowry..."

When he got to this point there was a tremendous clamour among the audience, and some humorist shouted out, "Ask the the bride to tell us how they first fell in love. Get them to act the scene for us!"

Just when all this noise was at its height, they heard a voice outside the courtyard shouting, "Lao K'ai's come!" Everyone turned round to look, and saw a short little man of about forty, with a black moustache, drooping down like two brush strokes. At one glance they recognized him as the mayor of Feng-lan's village. Then they noticed that with one hand he was leading an animal, and in the other was carrying a small whip. Kuei-te, quickly standing up and offering him a seat, asked him, "What on earth have you brought an animal with you for?"

"That's Feng-lan's parents' present to you," replied Lao K'ai with a smile.

The mayor of Kuei-te's village was delighted and rushed into the back room to call Mrs. Wang. "Come out quickly and have a look! Your daughter-in-law's family has sent such a nice present."

Kuei-te's mother could not come out fast enough, but all she saw was a stranger, leading a young calf, round as a pumpkin, and fat as butter. She could not make it out until Lao K'ai said, "This is the bride's family's calf. Today Feng-lan is being married to Kuei-te, and is going to live in this village. Her family heard that you found it hard work tilling your fields because you had no animal, so they thought this might do in place of a dowry."

All her long life Kuei-te's mother had never owned an animal, and now she was so happy that she did not know what to say, but just stretched out her hand to touch the calf's head. And the calf, he wagged his tail, put out his tongue and licked here and

Harvest — *by Chan Chi*

licked there, stamped his hooves and kicked up the earth. With his yellow, yellow coat, soft as down, and a white patch between his horns, you could tell at once that he was going to be a strong and useful animal. He really was a lovely little fellow! Mrs. Wang opened her toothless mouth, but no words came out—only a big smile. After a long pause she just managed to say, "I don't know what I can do with him. My son won't be at home, and I've never brought up a calf."

This remark sent them all into fits of laughter, and the mayor said, "Mrs. Wang, you're so excited, you're talking nonsense. Have you forgotten that your new daughter-in-law is a Model Worker?" And Lao K'ai explained to her that Feng-lan had brought up the calf ever since it was born.

Some of the old men pushed forward to examine the beast from all sides. They looked at its teeth; they looked at its hooves; they stroked its coat, and patted its hindquarters. The old women, too, wanted to come and have a look, and soon there was again a great deal of movement among the audience.

"Look how nice he is" said one, "That's what I call a practical present."

"You see she's a Model Worker, so everything she does is a model," said another.

Then the head of the Women's Association began to talk to a group of women standing near her and said, "I think ours is a very lucky village. After a few days we'll all go out into the fields and get busy on our production drive." All the young wives too were very excited. "Why didn't I think of something like this when I was married?" said one. "Displaying a lot of dead furniture that doesn't help you to eat is not half so good as a living present like this that helps you with production."

With banter and laughter, the people insisted that Kuei-te's mother should make a speech. "To have a new member to your family is a great event. You must say a few words," they shouted.

His mother allowed them to half drag, half carry her to the platform where her son and daughter-in-law were. She looked at her son, then looked at her daughter-in-law, and then turned and looked at the crowd. Her inward happiness was shown on her face, but she could not frame a single sentence. After standing there in a daze for a long while, she at last managed to get out these words, "My old brain is very slow, but now I understand. This year, we must have new ways of doing new things." Everyone applauded.

For many days after this people repeated the story of this new style wedding.

FUKIEN'S TEA INDUSTRY LOOKS UP

The former thriving tea industry in Fukien province came to a standstill with the Japanese war and was unable to recover due to the inflationary policies of the Kuomintang. Since liberation, however, government assistance is making possible a revival of this important industry.

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BEFORE the Sino-Japanese War, the tea plantations in Fukien covered an area of about 90,000 acres and the tea output averaged 12,000,000 kilograms a year, according to statistics compiled by the Fukien Bureau for Advancement of Agriculture. Tea exports from Fukien amounted to approximately US$4,500,000 annually.

All of this came to a standstill with the outbreak of hostilities and the subsequent coastal blockade by the Japanese. The advent of V-J Day brought high hopes for an early recovery of the industry. But the difficulties under the Kuomintang inflationary economy proved insurmountable. With the rapid currency inflation and unrealistic official foreign exchange rates, the cost of production was unduly high. For example, in 1946 the cost of black tea in Fuan was US$0.46 per pound (excluding transport and other charges from Fuan to foreign ports) but the selling price in the American market was only US$0.57.

There was also the problem of finding markets. France, which had been an important customer in pre-war days, banned the importation of Chinese tea after the war. Britain restricted her imports and the United States offered low quotations.

Another headache for the planters and merchants was the lack of operational capital since all business had been suspended for several years. They were able to get few if any loans from the Kuomintang government.

The Fukien tea industry was nearly inactive when the All-China Tea Conference was held last November. At that time plans were made to establish 22 factories throughout China for processing tea, with four of them to be in Fukien. All were under the auspices of the government's China Tea Company.

But the Fukien representatives faced a major problem in finding machinery for their four factories. If the machinery were manufactured in Shanghai, there was the question of how to transport it to Foochow past the Kuomintang coastal blockade. The alternative was to make it in Foochow but the machine industry there was in a relatively backward state. However, after careful consideration, they decided to follow the latter course.

A mechanical engineer, Ho Hsiang-ming, was assigned the job of designing the required machinery, and contracts were made with three factories to manufacture them according to Ho's design. Workers in these three factories had previously had no experience in making tea-processing machinery. It took them two months of hard work to complete the job. Sometimes the workers put in a 14 hour day. The machines produced by the three factories have generally come up to the standard that is prescribed by the China Tea Company. Moreover, the automatic drier and sifter are better than the standard set.

The Foochow Tea Factory began operations on May 1, and its plan for this year is to process raw tea from the suburbs of Foochow as well as from the north Fukien districts of Chengho, Kienyang and Shaowu. Its output is estimated at 190,000 kilograms of souchong or congou and 75,000 kilograms of flowery pekoe. In addition to processing, experiments are made with grading and blending of souchong and congou. The factory plans to turn out brick tea from the by-products of black tea next October.

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THE China Tea Company has selected some 15 places in Fukien, easy of access to tea planters, and has established stations there for purchase of raw tea at fair prices. In this way, tea planters will be enabled to obtain legitimate profits without being fleeced by middlemen, and tea-processing factories are ensured of sufficient raw materials.

The establishment of tea-processing factories under the China Tea Company will lower the cost of tea production, improve the quality and facilitate its exportation. The conclusion of the Sino-Soviet Commercial Treaty has afforded a new outlet for Chinese tea, and there is now great hope about the future of this industry.

— CHEN FU-SHENG

CHINA AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

Confidence in Currency

FOR the first time in 12 years China is witnessing steady prices as well as a stable currency. As a result, the value of the *jenminpiao* (People's Currency) in terms of US dollars has been raised. In addition, this phenomenon has resulted in increased circulation of currency in the rural areas which heretofore have been accustomed to disregarding inflated Kuomintang money and using the barter system.

For years US and Hongkong dollars have played an all important role in the economy of China, especially in the big coastal cities. With the stabilizing of the currency under the Central People's Government exchange rates between the *jenminpiao* and US dollars moved in favor of the former during April to the extent of 11 percent. In terms of *jenminpiao*, 10 percent less had to be given for Hongkong dollars. In Shanghai, Canton, Tientsin and other cities people are bringing out their foreign currency and exchanging it for JMP. According to the *NCNA*, this completely reverses the trend during the long years of inflation when people rushed out to exchange Chinese money for foreign currency. The present trend is a definite sign of confidence by the Chinese people in their own currency.

Foreign exchange transactions increased five times in volume during April in Shanghai, as compared with March, while in Canton, millions of Hongkong dollars were exchanged daily for *jenminpiao*. The *NCNA* reported that in other cities as well, the people preferred to have their bank deposits registered in their own currency rather than in foreign exchange. This whole process was a new development in China.

Meanwhile, from the rural areas many reports revealed that because of the increasing stability of commodity prices, resulting from the carrying out of governmental centralized financial and economic measures, the areas of circulation of *jenminpiao* were being extended. For the vast majority of China's peasants confidence has been established in their government's currency.

A typical example was cited from south Anhwei province. During the past 12 years of currency inflation, this section's peasants had become used to trading by barter. However, because of the recent economic stabilization they have begun to feel that bartering is no longer necessary and have started accepting *jenminpiao*. From one of the province's important centers, Wuhu, it was reported that the greater portion of the People's Currency notes used by the state-operated China Tea Corporation's Tungchi branch for purchases of tea leaves in Huichow and Hsichow has found its way into the countryside. In the town of Chimen alone, the company spent JMP6,000,000,000 during a recent 12-day period buying up tea. It was also reported that during a corresponding period, the different state-operated enterprises, cooperatives, people's banks and the tax bureau recalled only one-third of this sum. The remaining JMP4,000,000,000 has been taken back to the farms by the farmers who sold their tea.

Call to Tibetans

REGIONAL autonomy for Tibet after its liberation was vouched for by the vice-chairman of the Chinghai Provincial People's Government in a call to the people of Tibet and the Dalai Lama to achieve a peaceful liberation. In a radio broadcast the vice-chairman pointed out that Tibet was certain to be liberated and called upon the Tibetans to send a delegate to conduct peace talks in Peking as soon as possible.

The broadcast assured the Tibetans that the PLA was capable of liberating Tibet and advised them not to be taken in by "the slanders of the British and American imperialist bloc aimed at sowing discord between nationalities." The vice-chairman also pointed out the fate of the Kuomintang to those who might still entertain illusions about British and American help.

Dealing with the question of nationality, according to the *New China News Agency*, the broadcast stated that the Tibetan people "could be assured that the Central People's Government, under the leadership of the Communist Party, was absolutely considerate of the interests and traditions of all component nationalities of the People's Republic of China and respected their freedom of religion. The temples and monasteries in Chinghai and Sinkiang and Sikang had all been thoroughly well treated since liberation. Tibet would receive regional autonomy after liberation, according to the Common Program of the People's Political Consultative Conference."

The speech also pointed to the fact that since Tibet is a part of the territory of the People's Republic of China and the PLA has the duty and strength to liberate the whole territory of the country, the liberation of Tibet is a foregone conclusion.

Liberation Anniversary

SHANGHAI celebrated its first year of liberation on May 27 and 28 to the tune of parades, firecrackers, mass assemblies and a variety of other public celebrations throughout the city.

Leading the many commemorative rites was the ceremony marking the laying of a foundation of a monument to the People's Heroes of Shanghai. This was attended by more than 300 high ranking government officials and foreign diplomatic and consular representatives. On the eve of the liberation's anniversary, more than 2,000 government, military and party officials and representatives held a meeting in the city administration building. Deputy-Mayor, Pan Han-nien, in his administrative report at this meeting, reiterated the People's Government's intention of protecting law-abiding foreign nationals as well as opposing aggressive and imperialistic elements.

Parades were the order of the day for thousands of citizens of Shanghai. Marching along prescribed routes, the paraders displayed huge banners hailing the first anniversary of the liberation. Some units performed one act plays as well as the new dance in vogue, the drum dance.

In celebration of liberation a military exhibition was opened under the auspices of Shanghai garrison units of the PLA. The occasion gave the Shanghai public a chance to view at close hand the US military supplies which had been wrested from the Kuomintang.

"Voice of America" Rebuked

MADAME Sun Yat-sen, vice-chairman of the Central People's Government and chairman of the People's Relief Administration of China accused the "Voice of America" of distortion in a recent broadcast. In a statement issued in Peking she said:

"It has come to my attention that a slanderous attack was made in a recent 'Voice of America' broadcast against the relief policies of the People's Republic of China. In this attack it was stated that I cabled the China Welfare Appeal, an organization friendly to the Chinese people, to send food supplies to China. I wish to state categorically that this is a shameful lie which was used to distort the meaning of a paragraph in the May First speech of Vice-Chairman Liu Shao-chi. In the first place, I have never cabled the China Welfare Appeal asking for food. In the second place, Vice-Chairman Liu made it perfectly clear in his May First speech that the People's Republic of China is always ready to receive well intentioned assistance from abroad, but we do not have to accept anything with imperialist intentions behind it."

Referring to the present situation in America, Madame Sun pointed out, "it would be wise for those imperialists in the US who are wasting time worrying about the welfare of the Chinese people to spend all of that time on their own welfare problems, which consist of the livelihood of over 16,000,000 people either totally or partially unemployed in their country today. The Chinese people would also like to recommend that these phony philanthropists spend less time warmongering in London conferences and divert all that wast-

ed energy to retrieving the over 20 percent decrease in their industrial index which will so drastically affect the well-being of the people in the US."

This was the second time within a month that a prominent Chinese has pointed out falsehoods in "Voice of America" broadcasts. Several weeks ago prominent Shanghai industrialist O. S. Lieu corrected a report to the effect that he had fled to Hongkong from Shanghai. At the time of the broadcast he was in Shanghai attending a meeting of the Shanghai People's Representative Council, Lieu revealed.

Postal Men Freed

THE Chinese postal workers have been freed from the KMT imposed system of putting up a bond guaranteeing each worker. A directive issued by the General Post Office of the Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone puts an end to this system.

Under the old system, every worker or employee was forced to find some person or commercial establishment to guarantee his "behavior," or had to pay a large sum of money guaranteeing his conduct. During the war against the Japanese, the KMT added a Nazi-like innovation which was referred to as "group thought guarantees," which in reality was aimed at suppressing the working class movement.

This new directive has been widely welcomed by the postal workers and they have pledged themselves to exert every possible effort to protect the security of the posts and public property, the *NCNA* reported from Peking following the promulgation of the directive.

According to the *Peking Daily Worker*, "Formerly, the postal employees throughout the country were completely enslaved. The 'bond system' was particularly oppressive against the rank-and-file. Today, the working class has emerged as the leading class in the new China and the personnel of the postal services throughout the country have also emerged as the masters of the people's postal enterprises. They have not only completely rid themselves of the yoke imposed on them by the old postal system, but also take part as the masters in the administration of their own enterprises."

Northwest Wheat

HARVESTING of the biggest wheat crop in 20 years is about to begin on 1,300,000 hectares of wheatland on the central Shensi plain. The bumper summer crop is being accompanied by excellent barley and leguminous crops in China's northwest.

An ample supply of rainfall over the area early this spring has brought wheat up to a height, in some places, of over five feet. It is expected to yield as much as 15 quintals per hectare.

The central organization of the Northwest Cooperative has laid in a stock of 15,000 sickles for re-sale and the peasants are rapidly buying them up, along with pitchforks, flails, rakes and other farming implements. Government loans are to be had by anyone short of ready cash. The peasants also are digging out every available cart and are buying animals to help in transporting the rich harvest. Threshing grounds are also being carefully prepared. At the same time, the Sian Women's Association is encouraging women to help in reaping and members are holding discussions in the villages on how to make sure that no wheat will be lost for lack of effort in harvesting.

With bumper wheat crops assured south of the Great Wall, arrangements have been worked out for a large-scale exchange of wheat for the coarse grains of the Northeast. In this way, the people of the Northeast—which is not a wheat producing area—will share in the supply of better grain. In addition, wheat prices will be maintained south of the Great Wall and there will be additional grain available for the food deficient areas in the south.

The Week's Business

The arrival of the British ships "Mausan" and "Tsinan" from Hongkong, marking the lifting of the blockade, stimulated local business conditions, particularly since their safe arrival indicated that the year-long talk of mines in the Yangtze channel, which had deterred many American and other foreign shippers, was purely KMT propaganda. Partially as a result of the encouraging shipping picture, the past week saw rather brisk trading in the local commodity markets, with the wholesale commodity index showing a rise of 2.94 percent over the previous week.

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THE arrival of the 2,060-ton steamer *Mausang* of Jardine Matheson & Company in Shanghai on May 29, the first to enter port since the liberation of the Chusan islands, has stimulated both local business and shipping circles. Although carrying only about 200 tons of cargo and no passengers, the entry of the British ship has established the possibility of resumption of shipping.

Close on the heels of the Jardine ship another British steamer, the *Tsinan*, belonging to Butterfield & Swire steamed into port from Hongkong on May 31, carrying 120 tons of cargo including 400 packages of industrial chemical materials, and other articles. Butterfield & Swire is reported to have set the freight tariff between Shanghai and Hongkong at HK$60 or JMP354,000 per ton of cargo. More ships are expected from Hongkong.

Meanwhile, the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company has also been rushing preparations for the resumption of shipping lines between Shanghai and North China and between Shanghai and Ningpo. The s.s. *Teh An* of 2,898 tons has been set to sail between Shanghai and Ningpo, while five other ships, including the *Hsi Yung*, *Hsi Liao*, *Greater Shanghai*, *New Shanghai* and *Ku Lung* have been assigned to ply between Shanghai and Tsingtao, Chefoo, and Tientsin.

Some 300 tons of export goods, consisting of cotton yarn, straw mats, vermicelli, towels, sewing machines, handkerchiefs, cigarette rolling machines, embroidery goods, weasels, skins and so forth were sent during the week from Shanghai to Kowloon by railway.

During the week under review brisker tradings featured the local commodity markets, and quotations for a number of commodities, such as industrial raw materials and dyestuffs, registered increases. Wholesale commodity prices on May 27, according to the compilation by the *Giefang Rhbao*, showed a hike of 2.94 percent compared with a week ago.

A recent important development was the merger of the Nantao and Chapei rice markets, which combined their tradings as from May 22. It has been pointed out that the differences in rice quotations in the two markets in the past gave unscrupulous merchants opportunities for speculation. Already tradings in the local rice market have been brought under control, and are assuming a normal aspect. According to recent statistics the number of rice hongs in April declined from more than 300 to some 70, and rice shops from 2,800 to some 1,100.

The financial and domestic remittance markets both ruled quiet during the week. In the foreign exchange market, two new TT rates were announced on May 30, namely JMP7,300 for Burmese rupees and JMP10,500 for Pakistan rupees.

To raise the standard of export and import goods, the Ministry of Trade of the Central People's Government recently announced a new set of regulations governing the testing of import and export commodities. According to the new regulations, the fees charged for this testing range from 0.10 to 0.25 percent of the value of the cargo concerned, while the testing certificates are valid for a period of from one month to one year.

Quotations

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices.

	May 24 JMP	May 31 JMP
Parity unit	5,353	5,362
US dollar (TT)	37,000	37,000
20's yarn	5,200,000	5,160,000
42's yarn	7,880,000	7,870,000
12-lb. cloth	250,000	250,000
Rice, 1st grade	255,000	255,000
Battleship flour	72,500	72,500
Peanut oil	420,000	440,000
Coal briquette	19,000	19,000
Kerosene, Kuokwang	103,840	103,840
Koo Pan soap	155,000	167,000

Peace Movement Grows

THE nation-wide campaign for signatures to the Stockholm peace appeal, which demands the outlawing of atomic warfare, continues to grow. Inaugurated around the beginning of May, the drive has spread throughout the country. In Peking, the nation's capital, a city-wide campaign was underway for the collection of 1,000,000 signatures.

From all over the nation reports reveal the extent of the campaign. By the end of May, 280,000 people in Tientsin had signed in support of the Stockholm appeal. In the ancient northwest city of Sian, signatures totaled nearly 100,000, while in Tsingtao the 100,000 mark was also reached. Tens of thousands of people have attended peace signature rallies held in China's principal cities as well as in provinces in north and northwest China.

Meanwhile, a peace group headed by poet Emi Siao, is touring the country to further the drive for peace by publicizing the Stockholm appeal. Nanking was the first major city on its tour. Emi Siao was the Chinese delegate to the world peace meeting at Stockholm which decided to launch a world-wide peace signature campaign.

SHANGHAI

KMT Stocks Recovered

MORE than US$14,000,000 worth of industrial equipment and other goods have been unearthed in the first month of stock-taking of former Kuomintang warehouses in east China, according to a *NCNA* report from Shanghai. These materials, which had been "lost" in a bookkeeping sense by the KMT bureaucracy, will now be used to help revive China's economy and provide additional revenue for the government treasury.

Automatic machine tools and diamond drills were among the many items which had not been listed on inventories and which have now been allocated to the Ministry of Heavy Industry and other industrial departments. Over 1,000 tons of pipe couplings were found in railway warehouses, a quantity several times greater than the orders which had been placed with the Ministry of Heavy Industry by the railway administration.

The China Textile Corporation possessed over 1,800,000 unlisted machine parts, many of them very difficult to obtain.

Thousands of east China industrial and administrative workers took part in stock-taking, which is part of a nation-wide project now being conducted under the guidance of a centralized organization. All former Kuomintang warehouses and even basements for dumping "waste" materials are being thoroughly combed.

A usual procedure of KMT officials was to "bury" material and later take it out and sell it. Employees of the Shanghai postoffice have discovered JMP100,000,000 worth of useful articles amongst "rubbish." Many machines simply needing repair work were dumped and only now have been brought back into service.

Self-Criticism Sought

CRITICISM and self-criticism in the press was advocated by Deputy Mayor Pan Han-nien in a speech before a municipal conference. The mayor saw such action as a further step toward improving working efficiency and eliminating the last vestiges of bureaucracy.

Pan stated that correct criticism and self-criticism appearing in the press would not "impair government prestige but would help establish the prestige of service to the people." He also declared, before the more than 2,000 high ranking municipal officials and cadre members at the meeting, that only those officials imbued with bureaucracy and who place their interest above the people feared criticism.

By fostering the practice of criticism and self-criticism in the proper way, the deputy-mayor said, "We must be able to go another step forward in uniting with the people, improving our work and rallying hundreds of thousands around us so that the people of Shanghai will take a step forward in mobilizing themselves in order to reform the old Shanghai."

Seamen's Conference

THE final week in May saw the end of the five-day East China Seamen's Conference at which 81 delegates representing 200,000 seamen of 21 ports in the coastal provinces of China were represented. The closing ceremony marked the inauguration of the East China Committee of the Seamen's Union of China and the taking of a vow to support the PLA drive to liberate Taiwan.

In view of the recent liberation of the Choushan islands, former KMT blockade base for Shanghai and the east China coast, the marine workers pledged to resume navigation between north and east China and also to open shipping lines for the South Seas region. Their pledge also emphasized the important role seamen had to play at the present time.

During the course of the five-day conference the seamen proclaimed their intention of helping those of their fellow workers who have lost their jobs. It was pointed out that in rendering relief to these unemployed, workable measures should be drawn up in line with the instructions of the government and higher labor union authorities. A training class for unemployed seamen was suggested as a method of furthering their political and technical knowledge.

One of the speakers at the opening meeting of the conference was the deputy chief of the visiting group of Hongkong seamen who had turned over to the People's Government of China. In the course of his address, the Hongkong delegate said the Hongkong Chinese seamen hoped that Taiwan would be liberated so that the 13 vessels which severed relations with the KMT at Hongkong could resume their runs.

Inspecting Accounts

THE Labor Bureau of the People's Government of Shanghai has pointed out that without the consent of the management, employees do not have the right to inspect the accounts of their employers. In the event of suspicion of doctoring of the accounts by management the employees may report such cases to the Bureau of Industry and Commerce.

The Labor Bureau also ruled that the management of an enterprise cannot apply for suspension of operation unless business conditions are so bad that it is impossible to continue operations. The Bureau pointed out that agreements entered into before liberation are still valid excepting those which are obviously unreasonable.

THE NORTHEAST

Increased Employment

THE first quarter of 1950 has seen an extra 200,000 workers taken on in factories and mines in the heart of industrial China, the Northeast. This compares favorably with the 240,000 workers taken on during all of last year. Another new development is the recruiting of farm laborers who can be spared from the land. These are being employed as unskilled workers to fill the ever growing demand for manpower. Simultaneously there has been a stepping up of the drive to recruit technicians and skilled workers from the area south of the Great Wall.

In one county alone in Liaotung province 13,253 unskilled laborers, including 905 women, have already left their farms for factories and mines. It was found possible to let these farm workers go after mutual aid methods of work were established on the farms and labor was more effectively organized.

Although large numbers of skilled workers and technicians are coming in from south of the Great Wall, the demand for this type of labor is greater than the supply. In the steel center at Anshan, for example, 9,900 skilled workers already have been taken on recently but there still is a great need for welders, riveters, millers, carpenters, tile makers and planers. This situation is reported to be existent throughout the Northeast.

Continued increases in production are being registered. A 300 percent increase in output was made by state-owned cement plants in the Northeast during the first third of this year. This was the outcome of the new record movement during which workers brought forward more efficient methods of production.

Workers succeeded in prolonging the working period of their rotating kilns from 25 to 60 days between overhauls. As a result the cement output has gone up sharply, according to a *NCNA* Mukden dispatch. An example was cited in the case of the state-owned plant in Harbin which only turned out 2,700 tons of cement in January but produced 12,000 tons in March.

Articles of Interest:

The United States & the UN

A charge that the US-led imperialist bloc is attempting to break up the United Nations is contained in an article in the Shanghai "Ta Kung Pao" of May 9. The UN, the paper maintains, though already rendered "rickety and powerless" is still a stumbling block in the path of imperialist schemes, and American imperialism intends to spurn it once and for all. However, the article sees no possibility of success for such plans thanks to the consistent efforts of the USSR and people's democracies to abide by the aims and purposes set forth in the UN Charter and to the growing strength of the peace movement throughout the world.

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THE article opens by quoting a recent statement by Herbert Hoover, which Truman confirmed as being in line with his policy: "The United Nations Organization should be reorganized exclusive of the Communist countries," said Hoover. "If this is unfeasible, then a new clear-cut united front should be formed by all countries opposing communism, upholding justice and loving freedom."

The article then recalls the original purpose of the UN. It is, it points out, a world structure formed by the anti-aggressive countries of the Second World War with the primary aim of "maintaining international peace and security." The UN Charter states: "The member states should settle by peaceful means any international issue . . . and should not infringe upon the territorial integrity or political independence of any member states or countries by applying threats, force or any other means incompatible with the purpose of the UN." The principle of "unanimity among the big powers" is also stipulated and makes it impossible for any resolution of the Security Council to be valid without the agreement of the five permanent members. But, the article says, though this worked at first, since the imperialist bloc under US leadership has had control over the majority in the UN, it has exploited and manipulated the UN, trying to wreck it from within and without.

It gives as examples of manipulations the dispatch to Korea of the UN Commission, the purpose of which was, it states, to camouflage US interference in Korea's internal affairs and the setting up of a puppet government. Over atomic energy control, US imperialism has emphatically opposed signing a pact prohibiting the use of atom weapons and, so that it might continue to manufacture atom bombs has set up "a commission that babbles about control." In relations with China, it says the most flagrant act has been that, even after Foreign Minister Chou En-lai cabled the UN disowning the representatives of the Kuomintang, the US has led the imperialist bloc "to retain the political corpse of the KMT bandit representatives and obstruct the attendance of the representatives appointed by our people's government. Even the absurd proposal made by the representatives of the Chiang bandits, slandering the Soviet Union was also allowed to be included on the agenda of the UN Assembly."

However, the article continues, since the Soviet Union also participates in the UN, American imperialism has been frustrated in its plan. So the US has been doing all possible to repeal the veto and thus freeze Soviet rights in the UN. These attempts began as early as October 1946 in an attempt to revise the UN Charter, and later in 1947 in the setting up of the Little Assembly; but they both failed.

Nor, points out the article, have attempts to destroy the UN been confined within the UN. American imperialism has also "perpetrated aggressive actions contradictory to the charter." It lists some of these as follows: March, 1947—American military aid to Greece was announced; June 1947—Marshall announced the European Recovery Plan; March 1948—following the Marshall Plan the Western Union was formed; March 1949—"the daring aggressive North Atlantic Pact made its appearance."

Thus, the article continues, US imperialism has set out to ruin the UN and organize another structure absolutely hostile to the Soviet Union and the eastern democracies. But, it emphatically states, "this is impossible" because of the stand of the Soviet Union and the democracies. Further, although the representatives of the People's Republic of China have not yet attended the UN, such representatives have been appointed and will attend and China's policy is in harmony with that of the Soviet Union and people's democracies.

And so the article concludes: "Support for the UN and ruin of the UN form the dividing line between the peaceful democratic front and the imperialist camp... However, due to the unprecedented strength of all the peace-loving people in the world, imperialism cannot launch war at will, nor can it ruin the UN at will ...the strength of all peace-loving people throughout the world will certainly deal a blow to and, moreover, nullify completely the intrigues of imperialism."

New Mining System

ALL coal mines in the Northeast have begun to use the Hokang system of concentrating limited mechanical equipment on fewer shafts in each colliery. The colliery in Hokang previously had achieved a 60 percent increase in overall coal output by working only 145 shafts instead of 353 and concentrating all its machine equipment on fewer shafts.

The effect of the Hokang system, which has led to its being put into operation throughout coal mines in the Northeast, was great. The Hokang colliery was able to release 800 of the 4,000 miners who worked there for other urgently needed industrial work in the Northeast. Moreover, in the six months ending this March, accidents were cut by more than half, the quantity of materials required for installations dropped by 50 percent, and about 5,000,000,000 dollars in Northeast currency were saved in maintenance costs. The overall drop in cost of coal production was 9.5 percent.

With the increased production of mining equipment in the Northeast, the Hokang colliery is reported aiming at achieving 80 percent mechanization in all its pits by the end of the year. Meanwhile, the Hokang experiment has caught on in other collieries and is now being widely applied.

Ending Illiteracy

A MEETING of cultural and educational workers has just ended following the planning of a systematic wiping out of illiteracy in the Northeast within the next three to five years. The meeting was called by the Board of Education of the Northeast People's Government and the Northeast Trade Union Council.

At the opening of the conference Chien Chun-jui, vice-minister of education, stated that a large number of spare-time schools, winter schools, short term middle schools, and new style universities are to be set up for workers and peasants throughout the Northeast. All schools will be open to the children of workers and peasants. The vice-minister stressed the point that the economic, political and cultural development of China could only be pushed forward if workers and peasants mastered cultural and scientific knowledge. The first step in this direction, he said, was to master illiteracy.

A survey shows that in 14 industrial regions in the Northeast alone, 180,000 workers are now studying in night schools run by factories and trade unions. More than 4,750,000 children are studying in primary and middle schools in the Northeast. This number constitutes 11.5 percent of the area's total population. The children of workers and peasants make up half of all middle school students in the Northeast and the percentage is far higher in primary schools. At the same time, in the countryside, millions of peasants are studying in long term adult schools which have grown out of winter schools.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Nothing Spectacular

ALTHOUGH chief British delegate to the Sydney Commonwealth conference on aid to southeast Asia, Lord MacDonald, was returning to Britain "well satisfied with the outcome," he bluntly said that no one could expect "immediate and spectacular results." In a broadcast over the Australian radio, MacDonald stated that aid in southeast Asia must be immediate or serious consequences might result, bringing about a crisis.

MacDonald, in explaining the need for Britain and its Commonwealth members to advance economic help to this area, warned that unless this was forthcoming things "will drift from one emergency to another emergency, from one crisis to another, and we shall never be able to extricate ourselves from such a harassing position." He also stated that "the peoples of all countries are gradually awakening to the realization that poverty and penury in one area is a positive peril to prosperity in all other areas."

"Danger Spot"

WHILE the Commonwealth investigated the need for immediate aid to southeast Asia the US is going ahead with its own policy of aid. Paul Hoffman, ECA chief, has revealed that the US has no time to lose in this area, "one of the world's danger spots." He announced the establishment of a Far East Program Division at ECA headquarters in Washington. He also stated other technical and economic missions to strategic areas in southeast Asia were in prospect. Hoffman was not very clear on what all this would cost the American taxpayer but he was sure "that it will be a comparatively modest figure, and I know that we cannot afford not to spend it."

The State Department also announced the dispatching of a mission to the Indo-Chinese states of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to institute an economic aid program. An official ECA statement announced that it would deal directly with non-Communist governments in the area while consulting with the French in the cases of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

America's plan for money to southeast Asia will be according to the needs of each country, and possibilities afforded by local conditions to put this aid to immediate and effective use. According to James Webb, Assistant Secretary of State, the recommendations of the Griffin Mission, made after an on-the-spot survey and considerable consultation with local governments, would not be made public.

Apparently America was not waiting for the plan developed at the Commonwealth conference to be put into effect. While the US was getting ready to spend its money the Commonwealth project was not expected to get under way until roughly one year from now. The Commonwealth members were said to be hoping that the needs of the different countries in southeast Asia could be known by September. The British government was reported to feel that the conference has "laid the right foundation for long-term development of the whole of southeast Asia."

Helping Bao Dai

THE US already has informed ex-Emperor Bao Dai, head of the Vietnam government, of its intention to begin a program of aid to Vietnam. The American Charge d'Affaires officially handed the French - installed Vietnam head a letter announcing America's intention.

The letter said that America would establish in Saigon a special economic mission charged with developing and continuing a program of economic aid "to help the three countries (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) restore their normal economic life." The first instalment is expected to amount to US$15,000,000 until July. A second allocation will be made after July, it was also reported.

Meanwhile the danger sign in Vietnam has been seen by a member of the British Parliament. Woodrow Wyatt, Labor member, urged the convoking of a conference between Britain, India, Pakistan and America to decide what to do about Indo-China "where the French are fighting a losing battle."

At the same time, reports from Saigon stated that all Vietnamese newspapers in Hanoi ceased publication for two days in protest against a new government censorship decree which compelled editors to submit page proofs before printing. The Hanoi papers published their protests on their front pages in defiance of the government order. A joint editorial manifesto declared that the government was ignoring public opinion and demanded freedom of the press.

The censorship decision was reported to have been taken as part of the government's new program of "exceptional measures" against activities of Ho Chi-minh's Vietminh forces. The Cabinet was also reported to have studied measures aimed at tightening police control over "dangerous individuals." The measures would give the police power to keep persons believed dangerous to public security under constant watch. In some cases, the police would be empowered to assign such persons to obligatory residences.

Indonesian Centralization

WHILE Indonesia readied itself for a flow of American aid its political leaders were getting set for more centralized control of the country. Such control would make possible more effective pooling of resources to combat "subversive elements." Talks on centralization took place between the Indonesian Federal Government and the Republic of Indonesia. The talks led to an agreement in principle to have a unitary state with power vested in the prime minister of the Federal Government, Mohammed Hatta.

The new government, it is believed, will work out a new constitution from the one proclaimed by the Republic of Indonesia following the Japanese surrender. Sixteen autonomous states and territories and Indonesian leaders have urged that a stronger, more central government must replace the Federal structure if the new republic is to make any headway.

The Dutch apparently were none too happy over this latest move in Indonesia. The Dutch government has accused the Indonesians of using unconstitutional means to achieve a change in the structure of their republic. They were also concerned about the "very difficult" position of Dutch private enterprise in Indonesia and about the deterioration of living conditions of the many Dutchmen there.

In an official note the Dutch claimed the development in Indonesia has been very different from their ideas on the question of self-determination. The note further declared: "In spite of some improvements, personal and economic security in Indonesia still causes anxiety in Dutch circles, and it cannot be denied that the living conditions of many Dutchmen there have very considerably deteriorated." The general position of Dutch private enterprise in Indonesia at present was described as "very difficult."

While the Dutch showed visible concern over prospects for enterprises in this part of the world, some observers felt that US aid might go a long way in removing this obstacle for future American business in Indonesia.

Malaya Inspection

BRITISH Colonial Secretary James Griffiths and War Minister John Strachey have arrived in Malaya on their fact-finding tour on military and civil problems. They are expected to leave about the middle of this month after looking into the situation which, in England, has often been described as "gloomy". Prior to leaving London both were briefed by Malaya experts on the anti-insurgent campaigning in which Britain is using more than 70,000 police, more than 16,000 troops, and squadrons of airplanes.

One of the more important steps on the agenda was Mr. Griffiths'

intention to see "as much of conditions in Malaya as time will permit." In addition to visits to various estates and settlements and talks with authorities, the Colonial Secretary was contemplating visiting rubber estates and tin mines and engaging in meetings with the "planting and mining community."

Griffiths, before arriving in Malaya, had voted thumbs down on plans to arm Malayan civilians in an effort to deal with guerillas. He was fearful lest "an unduly wide distribution of arms to civilians would provide the insurgents with a target which, if successfully attacked, would supply them with much-needed arms and ammunition." He revealed that large numbers of auxiliary police, including village guards, have already been issued arms and that this policy was being extended.

During the course of a visit to the Malayan capital, Kuala Lumpur, Griffiths and Strachey witnessed a display of insurgent flags. This apparently was a gesture of defiance against the two symbols of British policy. Two flags were nailed to a tree on the grounds of King's House where the two ministers were stopping. Meanwhile, it was reported that 500 officers and men of the Third Commando Brigade of the Royal Marines arrived in Penang to reinforce British troops.

* * *

WHILE Griffiths and Strachey made their Malaya tour, in London, the British Colonial Under-Secretary reported that natives from other colonies were being used in the war against the "dissidents" in Malaya. In reply to a query from a Conservative Party member, the Under-Secretary stated that the authorities in Malaya had constantly under consideration the question of how the jungle experience of the tribesmen could be utilized. The question had been posed as to whether the government would take on more jungle-experienced North Borneo tribesmen. The Under-Secretary revealed that "the number of Dyaks attached to the forces is being increased."

A week before the two visiting British dignitaries arrived in Malaya it was announced in Singapore that people detained under the Malayan Federation Emergency Regulations may now be held for three years instead of two. The official announcement said this extension was necessary since in the present circumstances it would be against the public interest to release some of the people arrested during the early months of the emergency in 1948.

Nehru on Malaya

THE Malayan muddle reached New Delhi where Prime Minister Nehru was asked at a press conference whether Britain could call upon India as a Commonwealth country to provide soldiers to fight in Malaya.

Nehru replied that a question such as this was one which "entirely misunderstands even dominion relationship quite apart from our being a republic. It is unthinkable in dominion relationships for one of the countries of the Commonwealth to call upon another to offer soldiers." When asked whether Britain would be allowed to have her ships and planes refuelled at Indian ports, Nehru said that he did not think there was any possibility of such a need arising.

Simultaneously with British Commonwealth plans for southeast Asia, along with the Griffiths-Strachey mission to Malaya, the British government has emphasized the need for bringing to an end, "within measurable time," the practice of "flogging" offenders against British law in the colonies. This statement was made by the Minister of State for Colonies in London.

The Minister replied to a request in Commons for more information on the findings of an inquiry into the prevalence of corporal punishment in the colonies. He stated that he would recommend that the meting out of corporal punishment be restricted to the High Court and that the offenses for which the High Court could award corporal punishment to adults be reduced to that of assault in which brutality was involved.

Playing the Field

FRESH from their attendance at the Commonwealth conference, where concrete steps to battle communism in southeast Asia were taken, came the Indian and Pakistan delegates to Quirino's Baguio conference. The delegates were the same ones who received high praise from Australian and British officials for their fine spirit in Sydney a few weeks ago.

However, according to the Indian *News Chronicle*, the Indian government laid down a list of conditions before accepting Quirino's Baguio invitation. The paper said India asked assurances that: 1) The meeting would not even distantly aim at building an anti-Communist bloc. 2) Exclusion of any idea of military pacts. 3) Exclusion from the talks of the representatives of South Korea, Kuomintang China and Bao Dai.

MacArthur and His "Colleagues"

This cartoon, reprinted in the "Ta Kung Pao," claims America is continuing its plan to utilize Japan as a base by restoring the Japanese navy and naval personnel.

JAPAN

Anti-US Rally

STUDENTS demonstrating against American "interference" in education in Japan carried many anti-occupation placards in a recent Tokyo demonstration. This was considered, by some on the spot observers, to be indicative of feeling in many Japanese circles regarding American occupation in Japan.

Highly reminiscent of the Chinese student movement against American policy in China and Japan, in the days of KMT rule in China, banners attacking American policy were numerous in the Tokyo rally near the headquarters of General MacArthur's educational adviser. Some of the banners read, "Drive the imperialists back across the Pacific," "Expel the imperialists," "Members of the government that first uses the atomic bomb are war criminals."

The rally, which was attended by 1,000 Japanese, Chinese and Korean students, attacked MacArthur's educational adviser, Dr. W. C. Eels, who has advocated purging the universities of Communist professors. Recently, Eels was forced to cancel a lecture at Tohoku University after students had shouted him down.

A resolution was adopted at the rally to petition General MacArthur, the Far Eastern Commission and the Allied Council for "the freedom and independence of Japanese education."

Foreign Exchange Procedure

GENERAL MacArthur's headquarters has announced the establishment by the Japanese government of procedures, effective July 1, which will permit foreign news services, film distributors, and magazine and book publishers to receive limited amounts of foreign exchange.

Foreign exchange will be budgeted by the Japanese government to permit remittances to exchange non-residents where present trade policies and trade arrangements provide means of effecting such payments. Exchange residents have been defined as enterprises conducting business within the Japanese economy, including branch offices of foreign enterprises.

Imports such as news services, magazine material, rented motion pictures, copyrights and royalties will be provided for in contracts or arrangements between exchange residents and exchange non-residents. Such contracts or arrangements are subjected to approval by the Ministry of Finance.

Japanese Efficiency

THE Japanese textile industry is the best combination of cheapness and efficiency existing in any part of the world, according to Sir Raymond Streat and Robert Jackson, the British and American heads of the joint Anglo-American cotton textile mission. The American head pointed out that it was difficult to compare Japanese textile labor costs with those of the US or the United Kingdom.

Jackson reported that Japanese industrialists were optimistic about

future world markets, while Anglo-Americans were inclined to be pessimistic. It was said that the Japanese forecast a 10 percent increase in the Japanese cotton textile exports over 1949 (720,000,000 square yards), putting them in second place behind the United Kingdom. American chief Jackson stated that the Japanese had lots of valuable statistical information for the Anglo-American mission.

It is expected that Japan will receive new and increased cotton credits at reduced interest rates. Three or four US commercial banks in addition to the Export-Import Bank are expected to provide more than the authorized $60,000,000 credit at an interest rate which may be as low as two and a half percent instead of the current three and a half percent.

THE WEST

US Military Expands

FOLLOWING last month's navy plane disappearance over the Baltic Sea there has been a growing sentiment in Congress for an increase in US air strength. The US, which is already spending 20 times the amount spent for military preparations before the last war, recently saw Secretary of Defense Johnson recommend that the 1951 military budget be increased by $350,000,000. Of the new funds, $200,000,000 would be for the air force and $150,000,000 for the navy.

America has already served notice of the necessity for expansion of its air force and navy to support the newly announced 12-power defense plan for western Europe. It has been reported that a plan is in existence whereby American planes would be almost entirely responsible for strategic long-range bombing and the US Navy would carry the major burden of sea defense. American ground forces would have to be reduced to offset the air-sea increases, one leading official was reported to have revealed in Washington. This was seen to jibe with earlier reports of American insistence on fuller use of European manpower for any eventual war.

British Wage Freeze

THE General Council of Britain's Trade Union Congress has voted that the government's wage freeze policy must stay, despite a "higher pay" revolt by 5,000,000 industrial workers. However, the council warned that this might "impose an intolerable burden on the wage bargaining system" if continued indefinitely.

According to recent reports from Liverpool, eight people were arrested after anti-war demonstrations in that city where crowds were waiting to greet Viscount Montgomery, chairman of the Committee of Western Union Commanders-in-Chief.

From London it was revealed that some Londoners have to think twice about going out into the streets in certain areas because of anti-Jewish feeling. This was reported to an annual conference of British trade councils held in Nottingham recently. The delegate who related this tale reminiscent of Nazi Germany asked the conference members, "Do you know what it is to have to instruct your children not to pass through certain streets in London for fear of their physical safety?" Certain Jewish youth clubs had to organize convoys when the time came to go home and some people were afraid to go out into the streets, he added.

French Dockers Strike

THE harbor of Dunkirk was paralyzed following the closing of the Labor Exchange by the authorities after dockers refused to load military equipment for Indo-China. The dockers, who had undertaken to load the ship, refused to load three locomotives and military material. This was followed by army protection to the foremen who later loaded the ship.

Meanwhile, a few days later, the third consignment of US military material for France — mainly airplane engines destined for Indo-China — arrived in Cherbourg. The first cargo of combat planes for France arrived in March, while a French aircraft-carrier sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, on May 12 with a second cargo of 150 American fighters and bombers.

Italian Threat

ITALY'S veteran left-wing Socialist leader, Pietro Nenni, came out strongly against the latest Atlantic Pact plans. He declared that all problems but war could be reasonably solved by negotiation. "But the question of war does not allow discussion. We might, therefore, be forced to assume the responsibility of asking the Italian people to stage an insurrection in defense of peace," he said.

Once a Nazi . . .

US AUTHORITIES in West Germany have reported that German officials have been showing "more or less open resistance" to the employment in state or local civil service of people who had been connected with denazification courts. The reports attributed this hostility "to the fact that many former Nazi Party members are now reinstated in their old positions and often can control the employment of civil service personnel." Private employers were also said to be refusing to engage former denazification court workers.

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 1)

very opportunity to forge ourselves and to try to help others to get through a difficult period.

Then, last Tuesday we attended a lecture on how to get rid of various insect pests, given by an expert from Hangchow. We have never before listened to such a lecture. In this province, today, these pests are injuring the grain seriously. If we could do some preventive work the crops could be increased by 20 to 30 percent.

After hearing such a lecture we have come to understand the importance of fighting such pests. The pests are "Twice or Thrice Generated Worms" (二三化螟), "Flying Rice Lice" (稻飛虫), "Tank Worm" (鉄甲虫) and "Wandering Worm" (蟓虫). Later we will go to the country to tell the farmers how to eliminate these harmful pests and help them in this work.

LIU TSEH-WU

Chuichow
May 27, 1950

ADVANCED STUDY

To the Editor:

At the beginning of this month I joined the Advanced Research Class of the Southwest Military and Political University for a six months' training course and I know I have made the right decision this time.

The Advanced Research Class was formally and gloriously opened on April 29 at the old site of the ex-War College here in the Cave. The assembly hall was decorated with national flags and a picture of Chairman Mao. There were slogans about how to learn and study, and pictures of the leading figures of the People's Republic of China. There were also pictures depicting the crossing of the Yangtze river and the liberation of the large cities of China.

Our research class has an enrolment of over 600 students, many of whom are generals and colonels who mutinied against the KMT government in the southwest part of China. We all live together on the same campus and are divided into three departments. Each department is again divided into small study groups with about ten in each group. Each group has a discussion leader and each department has a chief and a political advisor as well as some executive secretaries.

Every day we rise at 6:00 a.m. and do a little light physical exercise or group singing between 6:30 and 7:15. From 7:15 to 9:00 is study and we have breakfast at 9:00. We have study hours again from 9:30 to 12:30 and then have lunch. There is another study period from 3:15 to 5:15. We all do productive work in ploughing the land nearby and planting vegetables for our own consumption. Saturdays are designed as our labor day and everybody goes as far as 15 li to carry our coal for the following week's use. Thus, we have to do everything ourselves, even our own laundering and cleaning of water closets.

By the end of six months we must show by concrete example that we have reformed our old ways of thinking; that is, we must learn to view things from the standpoint of China's farmers and working class. Our studying, therefore, is based on mutual criticism and self-criticism, dialectical materialism and linking up our studies with our daily lives.

We have to unlearn our old ways of thought before we can relearn the new. We must live as the common people do and get rid of the "face" ideas, fatalism and the gentlemen's ways that were based on contempt of workers. Only then can we serve our government smoothly and effectively.

Among other subjects we study the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Aid and Friendship, the development of socialist society, land reform plans and internationalism.

Our study program for the next six months is not only all-embracing but rational for it links theory with actual practice and is based on learning according to the needs of the masses.

S. Y. LIVINGSTON HU

Chungking
May 9, 1950

The Review's English Lesson CXXXIII

Idioms and Definitions

THIS week's text is from the introduction to one of Agnes Smedley's books, "China's Red Army Marches" (1934). The introduction was written by Robert Morse Lovett and outlines Miss Smedley's story of courageous fighting on behalf of the underdog.

Mr. Lovett writes:

> Agnes Smedley is an American in the historic sense of the word. . . in her revolutionary cosmopolitanism Miss Smedley has remained true to a conception of Americanism finer than that of her young fellow countrymen who guide the bombing planes of Chiang Kai-shek. She has always claimed for herself the rights of her citizenship, and has forced reluctant American officials to accord the recognition and protection which are her due. More than this, she has maintained and illustrated the primitive virtue of her ancestors in sympathy and active support of peoples struggling for freedom from exploitation and foreign tyranny. . . It is something to be proud of that she is our countrywoman. It is some support to our faith in American character that we can set Agnes Smedley over against other Americans, the misleading journalists, the predatory business men, the complacent diplomats, the gunboat commanders, the armament and aircraft makers, the volunteer aviators,—all those who with the Kuomintang act as the running-dogs of imperialism.

Historic sense of the word: The meaning is that Agnes Smedley is an American because of her fight for the exploited and oppressed; because of her revolutionary sympathies, she has linked herself with America's early revolutionary history.

Cosmopolitanism: The meaning of this word, as used here, is that Agnes Smedley was "of all the world, not local." She identified herself with the struggle of the underprivileged wherever she found it going on—beginning with her defense of the right of Indian students to asylum in the United States, through Europe, India, and at last in China.

A conception of: An idea of. This sentence means that Agnes Smedley's idea of an American and his duty was higher than that of the American pilots who were flying Chiang Kai-shek's bombers and dropping bombs on the communist areas.

Reluctant American officials: Reluctant means resisting, averse, unwilling, disinclined. Agnes Smedley's story tells of many occasions when she insisted upon the protection of American consulates against the persecution of the British, who saw in her a threat to their designs in China.

Which are her due: Which are owing to her, which are hers by right.

More than his: Moreover, in addition.

Primitive virtue: Primitive, like many adjectives, takes its color and meaning from the way in which it is used. It can have a derogatory sense, meaning rough, raw, clumsy, unformed, or, as used here, a laudable sense, meaning original, unspoiled. "Virtue" here means moral excellence.

Ancestors: One's forefathers.

Peoples: The members of various national, racial or other groups. Used in the plural, as here, it suggests that the struggle is worldwide.

Foreign tyranny: Imperialistic rule over one people by another. "Tyranny" is absolute or despotic exercise of power; absolutism. Usually associated with cruelty and disregard of the rights of those ruled over.

Countrywoman: A woman of one's own country; a fellow-citizen.

Set . . . over against: To compare with something else, usually not in favor of the latter instance or alternative. The meaning is that Agnes Smedley, and by inference, others like her, renew our faith in ourselves as Americans, and that she helps to balance the weight of those other undemocratic groups mentioned.

Misleading journalists: Newspaper and magazine writers and publishers who distort the facts and attempt to fool the public about the actual events of the world.

Predatory business men: Characterized by plundering, robbing, pillaging.

Complacent diplomats: Self-satisfied office-holders; because they usually hold comfortable jobs at good pay, which they are afraid of losing, they are afraid to take any action that might endanger their pleasant lives—especially to help or defend a fighter like Agnes Smedley.

Armament makers: Manufacturers of munitions for war.

Running-dogs of imperialism: A running-dog is a lackey, one who aids and accompanies in the hope of being treated kindly and perhaps being allowed to share in the spoils.

* * *

Note: The following corrections should be made in last week's English lesson. "Regime" should have been 政權, "surplus" 剩餘, "ruling class" 統治階級, and "re-establishment" 回復.

上海香港路一一七號美國登有限公司承印
上海延安東路一六〇號密勒氏評論報發行